

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Gary A. Winfield  
The Honorable Steven J. Stafstrom  
The Honorable Alex Kasser  
The Honorable Matt Blumenthal  
The Honorable John A. Kissel  
The Honorable Craig C. Fishbein  
Joint Committee on Judiciary  
Connecticut General Assembly  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: Proposed Bill 6321, An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act

Submitted via email: [judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:judgetestimony@cga.ct.gov)

Dear Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Vice Chairs Kasser and Blumenthal, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and Members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary,

As scholars dedicated to research on sexual orientation and gender identity, we are writing to communicate our support for Proposed Bill 6321, The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA). Our research includes pioneering work about families, parenting, and analyses of laws and policies that impact the creation of families for LGBT people. Our analyses of U.S. Census data indicate that many same-sex couples, as well as single LGBT adults, are raising children across the nation. Moreover, findings from the U.S. National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study, led by Institute scholar Dr. Nanette Gartrell, indicate that children raised by same-sex couples are at least as well-adjusted as the children of different-sex couples<sup>1</sup>. Findings from this 34-year long cohort study are consistent with other research on same-sex parenting.<sup>2,3</sup>

The Connecticut Parentage Act (CPA) provides a much-needed update to Connecticut law by clarifying who is a parent and providing paths for individuals who have children through assisted reproduction to establish legal parentage regardless of sexual orientation, gender, or marital

---

<sup>1</sup> Gartrell, N., Bos, H., & Koh, A. (2018). National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study - Mental Health of Adult Offspring. *N Engl J Med*, 379(3), 297-299. doi:10.1056/NEJMc1804810; Gartrell, N., & Bos, H. (2010). US National Longitudinal Lesbian Family Study: psychological adjustment of 17-year-old adolescents. *Pediatrics*, 126(1), 28-36. doi:10.1542/peds.2009-3153

<sup>2</sup> Golombok, S., Mellish, L., Jennings, S., Casey, P., Tasker, F., & Lamb, M. E. (2014). Adoptive Gay Father Families: Parent-Child Relationships and Children's Psychological Adjustment. *Child Development*, 85(2), 456-468. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12155>

<sup>3</sup> American Psychological Association. (2004). Sexual Orientation, Parents, & Children. Council Policy Manual. <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/parenting>

status. Connecticut is home to approximately 111,000 LGBT adults<sup>4</sup>, including 57,000 cisgender lesbian and bisexual women and about 4,700 female same-sex couple households. We estimate that Connecticut women in same-sex couple households have 160 children per year and, based on recent research, expect that many more will have children through assisted reproductive technology (ART) in the future. Recent national research predicts a significant increase in LGBT parenting, as 63% of young (18-35) LGBT people are considering expanding their families, with as many as 40% considering ART<sup>5</sup>. The proportion of LGBT millennials both considering having children and considering ART to create their families is much larger than among older generations.<sup>6</sup> As shown in Appendix Table 1, more than half of female lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LBT) adults in Connecticut are millennials.

Importantly, the Connecticut Parentage Act also reduces financial barriers to establishing parenthood. Same-sex couples face an array of additional costs on their way to parenthood, including second parent adoption at a cost of roughly \$2,000 - \$3,000.<sup>7</sup> The CPA would allow women in same-sex couple households to use the same mechanism that Connecticut women with unmarried male partners (estimated at 13,000 per year) may use to establish the parentage of a birth father and record his name on the birth certificate. Passing the CPA would reduce financial obstacles to family formation and would create parity between different types of families.

Sincerely,

Kerith Jane Conron, Sc.D., MPH, Blachford-Cooper Research Director and Distinguished Scholar

Nanette Gartrell, M.D., Williams Distinguished Visiting Scholar

Andrew Flores, Ph.D., Visiting Scholar

Bianca D. M. Wilson, Ph.D., Rabbi Barbara Zacky Senior Scholar of Public Policy

Jody L. Herman, Ph.D., Senior Scholar of Public Policy

Kathryn O'Neill, MPP, Peter J. Cooper Public Policy Fellow

---

<sup>4</sup> Of the 111,000 LGBT adults in Connecticut, 99,000 are cisgender LGB, 57.5% of whom are female (56,925). We round this estimate to the nearest 1,000 to arrive at an estimate of 57,000 lesbian and bisexual women. Sources: Conron, K.J. & Goldberg, S.K. (2019). Adult LGBT Population Estimate in the United States. The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGBT-Population-Estimates-March-2019.pdf> and Goldberg, S.K. & Conron, K.J. (2019). LGBT Demographic Data Interactive. The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. Retrieved from <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/#dens> As noted in the technical notes in the Appendix, there are about 9,070 same-sex couple households in Connecticut, of which 52% of which are female couples (4,716). We round this estimate to the nearest 100 to arrive at 4,700.

<sup>5</sup> Harris, E., & Hopping-Winn, A. (2019). LGBTQ Family Building Survey. Retrieved from [www.familyequality.org/fbs2018](http://www.familyequality.org/fbs2018)

<sup>6</sup> Harris, E., & Hopping-Winn, A. (2019). LGBTQ Family Building Survey. Retrieved from [www.familyequality.org/fbs2018](http://www.familyequality.org/fbs2018)

<sup>7</sup> Human Rights Campaign. (2020). How Much Does Adoption Cost? Retrieved from <https://www.hrc.org/resources/how-much-does-adoption-cost>

Brad Sears, J.D., Interim Executive Director and David Sanders Distinguished Scholar of Law & Policy

Christy Mallory, J.D., Renberg Senior Scholar and the Legal Director

## Appendix

**Table 1. Demographics of LBT female adults in Connecticut): Gallup Daily Tracking Survey, 2015-2017 (N=197)**

	%
<b>Age</b>	
18-24	32.4
25-34	24.2
35-49	16.3
50-64	19.3
65+	7.9
<b>Average age, in years</b>	36.8
<b>Race/ethnicity</b>	
White, non-Hispanic	63.3
All other racial/ethnic groups	36.8
<b>Marital Status</b>	
Single	58.7
Married same-sex partner	10.9
Married different-sex partner	10.6 <sup>+++</sup>
Domestic/cohabiting same-sex partner	3.8 <sup>+++</sup>
Domestic/cohabiting different-sex partner	6.6 <sup>+++</sup>
Separated/ divorced/ widowed	9.4 <sup>+++</sup>
<b>Raising children under age 18 (among those aged 25 and up) <sup>a</sup></b>	30.3 <sup>+++</sup>
<b>Educational Attainment</b>	
≤ High school	37.4
Some college	29.1
Bachelor's degree	14.1
Post-graduate	19.4
<b>Household Income &lt;\$24K</b>	26.8
<b>Prior-Year Food insecurity <sup>b</sup></b>	29.0 <sup>+++</sup>
<b>In labor force</b>	74.4%
<b>Employment Status</b>	
Employed (full time or part time)	93.6
Unemployed	6.4 <sup>+++</sup>

All percentages are weighted; all N's are unweighted.

<sup>+++</sup> Indicates an unstable estimate due to insufficient sample size (<30) and/or 95% confidence interval width as per suppression guidance provided in [Parker et al., 2017](#).

<sup>a</sup> Children in household defined as > 1 child under the age of 18 living in the respondent's household among adults age 25 and over.

## Estimated Annual Births to Women in Same-Sex Relationships and Unmarried Women with Male Partners in Connecticut

Using information about live births to women in same-sex marriages in neighboring Massachusetts<sup>8</sup>, coupled with data collected by the US Census Bureau about same-sex couple households<sup>9</sup>, we estimate that there were an average of 100 live births to women in same-sex marriages in Connecticut per year between 2012-2016. We further estimate that Connecticut women in unmarried same-sex couple households may have had as many as 60 live births per year between 2012-2016, totaling 160 live births per year among women in same-sex couple households.

Further, using vital statistics data reported by the Connecticut Department of Public Health<sup>10</sup>, and information reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention about the percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Connecticut<sup>11</sup>, we estimate that unmarried Connecticut women with male partners had an average of 13,000 births per year between 2012-2016.

### Technical notes

#### *Same-sex female couples*

According to US Census estimates, there were 9,070 same-sex couple households, on average, in the state of Connecticut each year between 2012-2016, 35.9% the number of same-sex couple households as neighboring Massachusetts (one-year average n=25,285). Assuming similar proportions of female couple households in both states and comparable birth rates, we multiplied the number of live births to Massachusetts women in same-sex marriages (one-year average n=288) by 35.9% to obtain an estimate of 103 live births to Connecticut women in same-sex marriages. Given that the proportions of female couple households in Massachusetts and Connecticut are similar (52%, 95% CI 45, 59 and 55%, 95% CI 51, 59, respectively) as per our unpublished analyses of 2015-2017 American Community Survey data, and that the age and educational attainment of these households, both of which are associated with parenting and use of ART<sup>12</sup>, are similar (see Table 2. below), we believe that our assumption of a comparable birth rate is reasonable. Our estimate of births was rounded to the nearest 10.

Our prior analyses of 2016 American Community Survey data indicate that, in the United States, just over half (52%<sup>13</sup>) of same-sex households are female couple households, including both unmarried (47.8%) and married (52.2%) couples<sup>14</sup>. Unmarried female couple households are somewhat less likely

---

<sup>8</sup> Downing, J. M. (2019). Pathways to pregnancy for sexual minority women in same-sex marriages. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 221(3): 281-282. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajog.2019.04.019>

<sup>9</sup> Table 3: Same-Sex Couple Households: 2012-2016 American Community Survey (single year estimates per state). Available at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html>

<sup>10</sup> Vital Statistics (Registration Reports). Hartford, CT: Connecticut Department of Public Health. Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>

<sup>11</sup> Percentage of Births of Unmarried Mothers by State. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/unmarried/unmarried.htm>

<sup>12</sup> Arocho, R., Lozano, E.B., & Halpern, C.T. (2019). Estimates of donated sperm use in the United States: National Survey of Family Growth 1995-2017. *Fertil Steril* 112(4): 718-723. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2019.05.031>

<sup>13</sup> Table 1. Household Characteristics of Opposite-Sex and Same-sex Couple Households: ACS 2012-2016 (single year estimates). Available at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/same-sex-couples/ssc-house-characteristics.html>

<sup>14</sup> Goldberg, S.K. & Conron, K.J. (2018). How Many Same-Sex Couples in the U.S. are Raising Children? The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Parenting-Among-Same-Sex-Couples.pdf>

to have a child in the household as compared to married female couple households (19.2% versus 30.2%)<sup>15</sup>, thus, multiplying the percentage of each household type with children by the percentage of each type of household (unmarried household 47.8% \* 19.2% = 9.2%; married household 52.2% \* 30.2% = 15.8%), adding these two percentages together (25%), and dividing each percentage by this sum, we estimate that 36.8% of children in female couple households live in unmarried households and that 63.2% live in married households. Consequently, in order to estimate the number of births to women in unmarried couple households, we divided the estimated number of births to women in married couple households by 63.2% to estimate the total number of births to women in same-sex couple households and took that number (163), subtracted the number of estimated births to women in married same-sex couple households (103), and arrived an estimate of 60 live births to women in unmarried same-sex couple households.

**Table 2. Demographic characteristics of LBT female respondents in same-sex couple households in Connecticut and Massachusetts, by state (N=134): Gallup Daily Tracking Survey, 2015-2017**

	Connecticut (n=34)		Massachusetts (n=100)		CT vs. MA p-value
	%	95% CI	%	95% CI	
<b>Age <sup>a</sup></b>					
18-34	20.6 <sup>+++</sup>	8.8, 41.0	18.9 <sup>+++</sup>	11.5, 29.5	0.85
≥35	79.4 <sup>+++</sup>	59.0, 91.2	81.1	70.5, 88.6	
<b>Race/Ethnicity <sup>b</sup></b>					
White, non-Hispanic	77.7 <sup>+++</sup>	58.1, 89.8	97.1	91.6, 99.0	<0.001
All other racial/ethnic groups	22.3 <sup>+++</sup>	10.2, 42.0	2.9 <sup>+++</sup>	1.0, 8.4	
<b>College graduate (age ≥ 25) <sup>c</sup></b>	73.6 <sup>+++</sup>	51.9, 87.9	76.7	64.6, 85.5	0.77

All percentages and 95% confidence intervals (CI) are weighted; all N's are unweighted

<sup>+++</sup> Indicates an unstable estimate due to insufficient sample size (<30) and/or 95% confidence interval width as per suppression guidance provided in [Parker et al., 2017](#).

### *Unmarried women with male partners*

Further, using vital statistics data reported by the Connecticut Department of Public Health, we obtained information about births to Connecticut women each year between 2012-2016 (36,512, 36,086, 36,130, 35,711, and 36,021, respectively)<sup>16</sup>. We obtained information about the percentage of births to unmarried mothers in Connecticut from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention between 2014-2016 (37.1%, 37.5%, and 36.9%, respectively) and divided the total number of births from 2012-2016 (n=180,460) by the average percentage of births to unmarried women (37.2%). Next, we took that number (67,071) and divided it by five to obtain an average number of births per year between 2012-2016 (n=13,414).

Assuming that some of these births may have been to unmarried women with female partners who do not reside in the same household, we multiplied the percentage of LBT female adults in Connecticut between 2015-2017 (4.4%)<sup>17</sup> by the percentage of LBT female adults in Connecticut over the age of 25

<sup>15</sup> Goldberg, S.K. & Conron, K.J. (2018). How Many Same-Sex Couples in the U.S. are Raising Children? The Williams Institute, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Parenting-Among-Same-Sex-Couples.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Vital Statistics (Registration Reports). Hartford, CT: Connecticut Department of Public Health. Available at <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Health-Information-Systems--Reporting/Hisrhome/Vital-Statistics-Registration-Reports>

<sup>17</sup> LGBT Demographic Data Interactive. (January 2019). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=9&characteristic=female#density>

who have children in the household (30%)<sup>18</sup>, then multiplied this percentage by the total number of births to unmarried women in the state ( $1.3\% * 13,414$ ) and conservatively estimate that up to 174 of these births may have been to unmarried LBT women who have non-cohabitating female partners. Thus, we subtract 174 from our estimate of 13,414 and arrive at 13,240 births to unmarried women with male partners.

Finally, given that only 0.69% of all US women of reproductive age in 2015-2017 reported *lifetime* use of donor sperm, including sperm from male partners, 57% of whom were heterosexual<sup>19</sup>, the number of children conceived by unmarried women through the use of anonymous donor sperm would be very small, but not non-existent. Thus, we conservatively rounded our estimate of 13,240 down to the nearest 1,000 to arrive at a final estimate of 13,000 births to unmarried women with male partners.

---

<sup>18</sup> LGBT Demographic Data Interactive. (January 2019). Los Angeles, CA: The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law. Available at <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/visualization/lgbt-stats/?topic=LGBT&area=9&characteristic=female&sortBy=percentage&sortDirection=descending - ranking>

<sup>19</sup> Arocho, R., Lozano, E.B., & Halpern, C.T. (2019). Estimates of donated sperm use in the United States: National Survey of Family Growth 1995-2017." *Fertil Steril* 112(4): 718-723. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.fertnstert.2019.05.031>